

Pastor's Corner



There are certain words that always “do the trick” for me, they act as flashing zebra crossing lights there on the page of my Bible.

An example, that comes directly to mind, are those words: “As for me...” which then get immediately followed by some expression of sincere and deep spiritual conviction and trust.

Probably the most well-known one is in Joshua and the last chapter where we read, from the mouth of that great leader, these words of conviction:

Joshua 24v15 “... **But as for me** and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

These verses nearly always contain some challenge and are basically what you might call “motivational” – and I for one, always need to draw strength and find motivation from whatever spiritual means are God makes available to me.

Let me share just 3 of them that I find very spiritual rewarding:

- **Psalm 73v28** “**But as for me**, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds. “

Nearness to God is something easier said than done – rather like real intimacy with another person, it needs to be cultivated and it is easily lost.
- **Psalm 71v14** “**But as for me**, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. “

Always having hope is also easier said than done – we can become discouraged and just plain deflated – praising Him more and more is a good remedy.
- **Micah 7v7** “**But as for me**, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me.”

What reassurance to know that **IF** we watch, that **IF** we wait **THEN** God **WILL** surely hear us and come to our aid.

So, if you find yourself flagging in any way, how about “flagging down” one of these verses and let it sink deep into you that it may release its deep soul refreshing word.

Every blessing – Pastor Hedley

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Thatcham Community Church



March

Bulletin

“But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Saviour;
my God will hear me.”

Micah 7 Verse 7

Morning Service - 11 am – Thatcham Parish Hall

- Mar. 2nd – The Gospel according to Isaiah – Isaiah 3v1-4v6
- Mar. 9th – The Gospel according to Isaiah – Isaiah 5
- Mar. 16th – The Gospel according to Isaiah – Isaiah 6
- Mar. 23rd – The Gospel according to Isaiah – Isaiah 7
- Mar. 30th – The Gospel according to Isaiah – Isaiah 8

Evening Service - 6 pm – Thatcham Parish Hall

- Mar. 2nd – The Gospel according to Jesus Christ – Matthew 5v5 ‘The meek’
- Mar. 9th – The Gospel according to Jesus Christ – Matthew 5v6 ‘The thirsty’
- Mar. 16th – The Gospel according to Jesus Christ – Matthew 5v7 ‘The merciful’
- Mar. 23rd – A member of the congregation will be preaching
- Mar. 30th – The Gospel according to Jesus Christ – Matthew 5v8 ‘The pure in heart’

Wednesday Home Group – 8 pm – at Pastor Hedley & Bola’s

- Mar. 5th – *** Prayer Meeting ***
- Mar. 12th – Following in the footsteps of the Patriarchs – Genesis 33
- Mar. 19th – *** Church Member’s Meeting – 7.30pm start ***
- Mar. 26th – Following in the footsteps of the Patriarchs – Genesis 34

Friday Ladies Group - 10-11.30 am (held at various venues)

- Mar. 7th – Studies on various women from the Bible – Eve (Carolyn)
- Mar. 14th – Studies on various women from the Bible – Miriam (Bola)
- Mar. 21st – Studies on various women from the Bible – Rahab (Carolyn)
- Mar. 28th – Studies on various women from the Bible – Peninnah (Bola)

Open Air Mission - Saturday 15th Mar. 2014

We need an hour of your time (or two if you can do the whole stretch) for being a rent-a-crowd. John Hawley and his wife Sue will be with us from the Open Air Mission and will be doing open air work. All of the previous times we have done this have been very productive.

Time: 12-2pm Northbrook Street.

Setup Rota

March: Nic, Andy & Ayanda
April: Ayanda, Bola, Hedley

Coffee Rota

Andy
Bola & Ayanda

Data Projector Rota

Ayanda backup Nic
Nic backup Ayanda

Praying for the right things

When you pray, what do you typically pray for? If we were to take a survey of the evangelical church today on the topics most often prayed for, we would discover that most prayers are often misdirected, short-sighted, and selfish. We typically pray for health, happiness, and success. We pray for personal comfort. We pray for solutions to remedy all the physical problems of life etc. Jesus said we are not to be anxious about what we eat, drink, or wear when we know God supplies them all. Our priority must be with the advancement of God’s kingdom... Continued.....>

Anton Chekhov – “The Bet”

Anton Chekhov in his classic short story **The Bet**...gives us great insight into the value system of most people. The plot involves a wager between two educated men regarding solitary confinement. A wealthy, middle-aged banker believed the death penalty was a more humane penalty than solitary confinement because “an executioner kills at once, solitary confinement kills gradually.” One of his guests at a party, a young lawyer of twenty-five, disagreed, saying, “To live under any conditions is better than not to live at all.” Angered, the banker impulsively responded with a bet of two million Rubles that the younger man could not last five years in solitary confinement. The lawyer was so convinced of his endurance that he announced he would stay fifteen years alone instead of only five.

The arrangements were made, and the young man moved into a separate building on the grounds of the banker’s large estate. He was allowed no visitors or newspapers. He could write letters but receive none. There were guards watching to make sure he never violated the agreement, but they were placed so that he could never see another human being from his windows. He received his food in silence through a small opening where he could not see those who served him. Everything else he wanted—books, certain foods, musical instruments, etc.—was granted by special written request.

During the first year the piano could be heard at almost any hour, and he asked for many books, mostly novels and other light reading. The next year the music ceased and the works of various classical authors were requested. In the sixth year of his isolation he began to study languages and soon had mastered six. After the tenth year of his confinement, the prisoner sat motionless at the table and read the New Testament. After more than a year’s saturation of the Bible, he began to study the history of religion and works on theology.

The second half of the story focuses on the night before the noon deadline when the lawyer would win the bet. The banker was now at the end of his career. His risky speculations and impetuosity had gradually undermined his business. The once self-confident millionaire was now a second-rate banker, and it would destroy him to pay off the wager. Angry at his foolishness and jealous of the soon-to-be-wealthy lawyer who was now only forty, the old banker determined to kill his opponent and frame the guard with the murder. Slipping into the man’s room, he found him asleep at the table and noticed a letter the lawyer had written to him. He picked it up and read the following:

Tomorrow at twelve o’clock I shall be free ... but before leaving this room ... I find it necessary to say a few words to you. With a clear conscience, and before God, who sees me, I declare to you that I despise freedom and life and health and all that your books call the joys of this world ... I know I am wiser than you all ... And I despise all your books, I despise all earthly blessings and wisdom. All is worthless and false, hollow and deceiving like the mirage. You may be proud, wise and beautiful, but death will wipe you away from the face of the earth, as it does the mice that live beneath your floor; and your heirs, your history, your immortal geniuses will freeze or burn with the destruction of the earth. You have gone mad and are not following the right path. You take falsehood for truth, and deformity for beauty. To prove to you how I despise all that you value I renounce the two million on which I looked, at one time, as the opening of paradise for me, and which I now scorn. To deprive myself of the right to receive them, I will leave my prison five hours before the appointed time, and by so doing break the terms of our compact..

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1995). Alone with God (p. 123). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books